

The Connecticut
Department
of Correction



Remember Our Troops

P.R.I.D.E.

Our motto: Professionalism, Respect, Integrity, Dignity, Excellence

AT WORK



Happy New Year

Building on our Success in the New Year

Dear DOC Employees:

As the New Year begins, please take the time to enjoy the incredible success that we as an agency have attained over the past year. We have progressively set new standards for our profession, in offender re-entry, health and mental health consolidation, in the safety and security of our facilities and in the return of the Virginia inmates to name but a few. Through it all, regardless of the challenge, we have adapted, we have learned and we have grown ever better. Based on this foundation of achievement we will continue to improve in the next year, rising to new heights that others will seek to follow. Your dedication and commitment are second to none and make my job incredibly rewarding and satisfying. Please accept my heartfelt gratitude and join in my immense pride as we move forward into 2005.

Sincerely,

Theresa C. Lantz
Commissioner

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Our Mission

The Department of Correction shall protect the public, protect staff, and provide safe, secure and humane supervision of offenders with opportunities that support successful community reintegration

* ~ ~ ~ ~ *

About and for
correctional
professionals

Dec.19, 2004 -
January 1, 2005

Military Greetings From Far Away

Retired Department of Correction Major Henry Lojkuc (pictured far right in photo) is currently deployed overseas with Operation Enduring Freedom. He is assigned within the Area of Responsibility for the Central Command Unit. He sends Holiday Greetings via an e-mailed poem that was written by a US Marine stationed in Okinawa, Japan. Due to its length, we were only able to print



an excerpt of the poem in PRIDE (See page 3). The entire poem can be viewed by going to the 'DOC in the News' folder on the X-drive. Copies will also be sent to the Warden's office of each DOC facility and available upon request from the Public Information Office.

Continued on Page 3, *Poem*

True Spirit of Giving

The staff at Gates CI combined their efforts to make the holidays a joyous event for children and their families by participating in the US Marines Toys for Tots Campaign and the Adopt-A-Family Program.

The coordinators for the Toys for Tots collected over \$600 in monetary donations and over 200 toys. This campaign was truly a success and will bring those in need true happiness. With the help and coordination of the New London Neighborhood Alliance and the Adopt-A-Family Program, staff received the names of three families in need and their "wish lists." Each shift was given a family to purchase items for.



Continued on Page 3, *Giving*

Pride. *AT* Work

for
December 19, 2004 -
January 1, 2005

Distributed
bi-weekly to 7,000
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Commissioner

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2004 Toys for Tots Campaign

Pride at Work, Dec.19 - Jan. 1, 2005
p.3

Melissa Thompson of the Research and Strategic Planning Unit (Central Office) coordinated the 2004 U.S. Marines Toys for Toys Campaign for the Department of Correction. Every facility participated enthusiastically. The volunteer coordinators were instrumental in tripling the amount of toys collected this year. Representatives from the US Marines stopped by Central Office to pick up the toy and cash donations on December 17th. Two large vans were stuffed with toys, which made visibility out of the van windows nearly impossible. Melissa would like to extend her sincere thanks to all of the facility coordinators for their gifts of generosity and time. "Through all of our efforts, we will bless three times the families we reached last year and that is a terrific feeling!" she said.

Special thanks are extended to Correction Officer Alison Fry (pictured above with the toys) of the Central Office Security staff, Captain Wayne Ford of Gates for collecting the most toys, and Lieutenant Jeff DeVore of the Security Division for capturing the moments on film. The Toy drive will continue through January 11th. While all DOC facilities participated in



Continued on Page 7, *Toys for Tots*,

Poem

I couldn't help wonder
How many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve
In a land far from home.

The very thought
brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees
And started to cry.

The soldier awakened
And I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry,
This life is my choice;

I fight for freedom,
I don't ask for more,
My life is my God,
My country, my Corps."

Calendar

January 14 - The 2005 Annual Fund Raising Breakfast to support the John R. Manson Scholarship fund will be held at Café 24 (North). The breakfast is from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. A donation for \$20 (Checks Only) can be made payable to UCONN Foundation- John R. Manson Scholarship Fund. Please confirm your attendance by calling 860.692.6837.

January 15 - The Retirement Party for Michael Cahill of Carl Robinson CI will be held at the American Legion (Route 5) in Enfield from 7:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased by contacting 860.763.6326 -CRCI Lieutenant's Office.

Giving, Cont'd

They were able to assist three families with toys, clothes, gift cards, and even furniture donations. Special thanks goes to CS Robin Lesinski, AA Jane Gaudreau, Lt. Jean Sarsfield, Lt. Randy Dossat and Lt. Miguel Rios who helped organize this campaign.

The outstanding efforts of the units in the facility which included Administrative, Clerical, Counseling, Officers, Food Services, Maintenance, Medical and Education has shown that to be truly rich in life we need to be able to give in order to receive. It is this spirit of sharing that nourishes us and builds bridges between the Gates CI staff and its community.

Helping with PRIDE

Captain Stephen Faucher (CRCC) recently praised Correction Officer James Johnson of Corrigan-Radgowski CC, for his humane courageous gestures. Officer Johnson was traveling southbound on Interstate 395 near the town of Waterford when he witnessed a vehicle traveling in the northbound lane lose control and crash in to the center median guardrail. Officer Johnson immediately dialed 911 and pulled over to assist. Officer Johnson was commended for his caring act of humanity. He did not hesitate to help when a fellow human being was in need. The victim and his family as well as the Connecticut State Police were grateful for his selfless act and that Officer Johnson proved that PRIDE is not just the departmental motto, but a way of life for staff.



Pride at Work, Dec. 19 - Jan. 1, 2005
p.4

Around the cell block



England- An inmate who escaped while visiting his dying mother at a hospice, was able to return and visit her the next day in a disguise.



West Virginia- The federal prison holding Martha Stewart held a Christmas decorating contest for the inmates with the theme this year of peace on earth.



Montana- Male inmates at a medium security facility are crocheting and donating the afghans they make as a method of bridging them to employment.



Georgia- The state is putting its women inmates on a diet, to improve their health and to save \$86,000 a year.

Years of Service

Employees with 20 Years of Service as of December 2004

Edward Blanchette	Hospital Clinical Director	Central Office
George Butler	Correction Officer	MacDougall-Walker CI
Mark Chapdelaine	Correction Officer	Willard-Cybulski CI
Raymond Dussault	Lieutenant	Central Office
Ellen Hurlburt	Counselor Supervisor	York CI
Karl McKinney	Correction Officer	MacDougall-Walker CI
Hilde O'Brien	State School Teacher	York CI
Dennis Sposato	Correctional Pumber & Steamfitter	Brooklyn CI

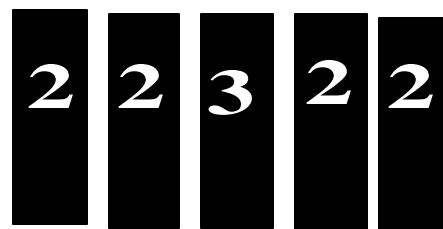


Officer Karl McKinney of MacDougall-Walker CI celebrates 20 years of service



Counselor Supervisor Ellen Hurlburt of York CI celebrates 20 years of service

**Supervised
Population
on December 29,
2004**



On Dec. 29, 2003 the population was 22,576.

DOC K-9 Graduates

Three members of the Department of Correction K-9 Unit graduated from the State Police Training Academy in Meriden on December 16, 2004.



(L-R) Officer Fred Shandra with K-9 Dargo, Officer Daniel Murray with K-9 Brady and Officer Andre Cox with K-9 Kazi

Pride at Work, Dec. 19 - Jan. 1, 2005
p.5

MVP's:

Abruzzi, David	Rec Spec	WCB
Allyne, Michael	CO	GCI
Arcari, Kenneth	Capt	CRCI
Bardot, Donald	Labor Relations Spec	CO
Baskerville, Charlene	Off Asst	CRCC
Benoit, Kimberly	CC	GCI
Bernard, Mary	Sec I	CRCI
Barone, Thomas	CC	WCB
Camera, Noreen	AFFO	CO
Champagne, Lorry	Sec I	CRCI
Choinski, Kimberly	CC	BCI
Connelly, Pamela	PPO	CO
Colon, William	Capt	CO
Costanzo, Philip	Lt	NHCC
Devore, Jeffrey	Lt	CO
Desousa, Carlos	CO	McWCI
Dossat, Randy	Lt	JBGI
Duchesneau, Kimberlie	Payroll Clrk	CO
Galligan, Gavin	CC	BCI
Geer, Richard	CFSS II	CRCC
Hannon, Katie	SST	ECI
Hightower, Pamela	AA Prog Mgr	CO
Hoffman, Robert	Lt	NCI
Johns, Jason	CC	YCI
Kanois, James	CO	HCC
Knott, Andrea	Capt	MCTSD
Levitan, Jerold	Rec Spec	CRCI
Light, Valerie	CC	GCI
Malavenda, Troy	Capt	Brgn CI
Mancarella, Paul	Lt	BCI
Marone, Joanna	CO	HCC
McCoy, Mary	SST	MYI
Neuendorf, Pamela	Sec II	BCC
Newton, Timothy	Lt	NCI
Nicoles, Michael	CO	McWCI
Pacheco, Lois	CO	BCC
Schain, Breina	Sec I	CO
Schweidel, Joel	PPO	CO
Senerth, Pamela	CC	YCI
Silverstein, Karen	CO	ECI
Smith, Stacy	CS	CO
Staub, Delores	CC	ECI
Stewart, Eric	Capt	OCI
Sucheck, Joseph	Design Eng	CO

Did you know?

Did you know is an informational column written by the Facilities Management and Engineering Unit, aimed at increasing your knowledge of issues in our everyday lives. This week's issue was submitted by Erich Kunst who can be reached at 860-692-7622. If you have any questions or an idea for a future column please contact Director David Batten at 860-692-7554.



Part One of Two

Have you ever driven by a motorist stranded by their broken down vehicle and wondered if your vehicle could leave you in the same predicament? Did you know that a majority of vehicle breakdowns are usually the result of failure in one of two areas on the vehicle, the **tires** and the **engine cooling system**? Do you know how to check either of these items? A few minutes of your time before you embark on your journey could save you the inconvenience and cost of a breakdown while providing you with some reassuring peace of mind.

The very first item you should inspect is your vehicle's tires. They are the only item between your vehicle and the road and **your family's safety depends on them**. Don't take them lightly. Check the air pressure in each tire on your vehicle, **including the spare tire**, to be sure that each is properly inflated to the automobile manufacturers recommended "cold pressure". The "cold pressure" is obtained **before** the vehicle has been driven or after the vehicle has been parked for at least **three (3) hours**.

Continued on Page 6, *Did you Know*

Garner CI - EOQ

Pride at Work, Dec. 19 - Jan. 1, 2005
p.6

Warden Giovanny Gomez of Garner CI was pleased to announce that Correction Officer Keith Rado and Secretary II Kathy Bonsignore were selected as Employees of the Quarter. In presenting the plaques, Warden Gomez stated, "these employees are highly respected for their professionalism and enthusiasm."



Keith Rado



Kathy Bonsignore

Did you know? cont'd

Buy yourself a digital tire gage (about \$10). They are much more accurate than the stick type gages and they are easier to read, too. If you are carrying a full passenger load as well as a boatload of luggage it is recommended that each tire be inflated to the "maximum load" pressure. The manufacturer's post both of these recommended tire pressures on a label that is usually found on the drivers door or door jam as well as posting it in the Owners Manual. Tires that are low on air pressure will degrade the vehicle's ride quality, handling, reduce your fuel economy and are more prone to blowouts. You should also visually inspect each tire's thread depth to be sure that you have at least 1/4" of thread left. Tires with less thread are more susceptible to dangerous hydroplaning in the rain and are more prone to damage (flats) from road debris. Next you should check the condition of the tire's sidewalls. Look for cuts, cracks, abrasions or bubbles as these too can lead to tire failures. If you discover any of these defects, it is best to consider replacing the tire altogether. Finally, do yourself a favor and locate your vehicle's emergency jack, lug wrench and wheel lock key, if equipped. Your ability to react quickly to a tire breakdown will limit your vehicle's down time and keep you moving toward your final destination.

Part Two of Two will be in the next edition of PRIDE at work.

Congrats



Deputy Commissioner Brian Murphy and his wife Tara are the proud parents of a new baby boy, Kaden Bryce Murphy, born on December 22nd. Kaden was 7lbs 15 oz and 20 inches. Everyone is happy and healthy.



Secretary 1 Carolyn Colonis-Martin of York CI and her husband Steven welcomed a baby boy into their family on November 23. Christopher Steven Martin weighed 7lbs. 5oz and was 18" long. The family is doing well.



Major Karl Lewis of Central Office and his wife Katie welcomed their third son, Thomas Matthew on December 22nd weighing in at 7lbs 12 ozs. Thomas joins big brothers Charlie and Timmy. All are doing well.

Job well done

Kudos to Correctional Counselor Jay -Todd Schuder of Hartford CC for his recent accomplishment of procuring his Certification of Clinical Supervision from the Connecticut Certification Board on November 1st. Counselor Schuder has 18 1/2 years with the agency and a private psychotherapy practice in Newington.

Toys for Tots Cont'd

drive, the staff of Cheshire CI were recognized for their generous donations of toys for under privileged children. Warden Dzurenda said "staff this year went above and beyond what was expected and took the extra step towards making donations this year. Staff at Cheshire CI pulled through and gave a little extra for those in need during the holiday season. They also collected monetary donations

to assist families in need during the holiday season. Officer Judith Hudson thanked all staff for their generosity. The money will go to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Organization. Pictured above are



(L) Correction Officer Bangie Vasquez and (R) Counselor Supervisor Dave Trapasso.

DOC Hockey Team Update

On November 12th, playing with 6 skaters, the DOC hockey team outplayed Riel's Rentals squad with a hard fought 3 to 1 victory. Kevin Manley played one of the best games of his career compiling 51 saves. Jim Gilbert had 1 goal and 2 assists while Fred Bogalus had 1 goal and played an outstanding defensive game. Joe Marqarolis played a great game as did Bernie Loubier and Mike Little. With this win, The DOC hockey team overtakes first place for the division. For information regarding the DOC hockey team you can contact C/O Jim Gilbert at Osborn CI at 860.749.8391.

Parent's PRIDE

Brittany Jaskiewicz, daughter of Captain Idette Jaskiewicz (York CI) and Training Captain Kenneth Jaskiewicz (retired) has been accepted to participate as the People to People Student Ambassador to Australia, New Zealand and the Fiji Islands. The 19-day exchange consists of meetings with government officials, interaction with other students, educational activities and home stays with host families. As an Ambassador, Brittany will earn high school and college credit. We are extremely proud of you Brittany!

Pride at Work, Dec 19 - Jan 1, 2005
p.7

Condolences



Fiscal Services staff at Central Office offer their condolences to the family of Simone Baillargeon on the loss of her father Jerry Marko. Jerry is also the father -in-law of Dennis Baillargeon of the Commissary Unit.

Warden John Siemenski and the staff of MacDougall-Walker CI are saddened to announce the passing of Correction Officer Exellee Anderson's mother.

Warden Robert Correa and the staff of New Haven CC along with Director Dave Batten and the staff of the Engineering Unit are saddened to report the passing of Jason Mana, the twelve-year-old son of Correctional Plumber Stephen Mana.

Warden Giovanni Gomez and staff of Garner CI along with Director Dave Batten and the staff of Engineering Unit extend their condolences to the family of Mark Paniccia, brother of GMO Michael Paniccia.

Warden Bruce Cuscovitch and the staff of Willard-Cybulski CI would like to express condolences to Counselor Terry Kelley and her family for the passing of her brother, Michael Kelly.

